Price 2d.

THE

RAGGED SCHOOL UNION MAGAZINE.

No. CLXII. JUNE, 1862. Vol. XIV.

"The word of the Lord endureth for ever."—1 Peter i. 25.

PROFITS DEVOTED TO RAGGED SCHOOLS.

LONDON:
KENT & CO., PATERNOSTER ROW.
JOHNSTONE AND HUNTER, EDINBURGH; ROBERTSON, DUBLIN; AND ALL BOOKSELLERS.

* * All Communications to be addressed to the Editor, 1, Exeter Hall, London.
* Orders for Advertisements to be sent to Robert K. Burt, Printer, Holborn Hill.

CONTENTS.

	Page
Papers, Original and Selected—	
Payment for Results	121
Report of the Eighteenth Anniversary of the Ragged School Union .	125
Proceedings of the Eighteenth Anniversary of the Ragged School Union .	128

Donations of old clothes, and books for forming Ragged School Libraries, will be thankfully received by the Secretary, Mr. JOSEPH G. GENT, 1, Exeter Hall, Strand, W.C.

SPECIAL APPEAL.

THE

BRILL RAGGED SCHOOL

Was originally established in Smith's Place, Somers Town, in the year 1857—the school premises consisting only of the loft over a stable.

Finding their exertions crippled by want of space, and the unpleasant smell from the stable below, a great hindrance in obtaining teaching help, the Committee in 1860 set on foot a movement to obtain better accommodation. Preparations were made for a Bazaar, to be held in 1861, and contributions solicited from the public. During these preparations a Building was offered in every respect eligible except the outlay required for repairs. With that drawback, however, it was easier to be obtained and fitted for use than a site for a new building, and to save it from getting into other hands, and to secure it for School purposes, the lease was purchased. The necessary repairs and alterations were then commenced under the impression that £60 or £70 would suffice to defray the expense. As the work progressed, however, it was found much more was necessary to be done than was expected; and when completed the repairs amounted to £140.

The Bazaar to which the Committee looked forward to clear them from their difficulties was fixed for the 12th and 13th November. Both days were wet,—it rained without ceasing from 9 A.M. on the 12th till 11 P.M. on the 13th, and the result was very unfavourable; and the Committee are now embarrassed by a debt of over £100.

Under these circumstances an appeal is made for help to this Institution, obtained after much labour and calculated to do so much good. The building is in the centre of Somers Town, one of the most depraved districts of the Metropolis: it consists of a large upper room capable of holding 200 Children, and three other rooms. At present the School, which is well attended, is opened on Sunday and during the week, and there are Religious Services for Adults.

Other Meetings and efforts can and will be made when the present state of embarrassment is got over; and the kind aid of friends of Ragged Schools is earnestly solicited.

The District and circumstances of the case are known to Mr. GENT, the Secretary of the Ragged School Union, to whom reference may be made, and by whom contributions will be received; also by Mr. MIRAMS, 35, Stanmore Street, Islington, N.

TO RAGGED SCHOOL MASTERS AND OTHERS.

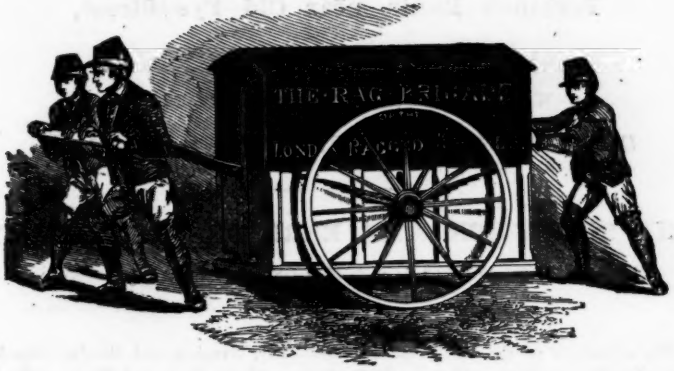
WANTED, a MASTER for Week Evenings, at a Ragged School at the West End. Apply by Letter to Mr. FREDERICK PITTS, Hon. Secretary, 54, Foley Street, W.

THE RAG COLLECTING BRIGADE

OF THE

LONDON RAGGED SCHOOLS.

CENTRAL DEPOT, ALBION PLACE, LONDON WALL, MOORGATE.



CHAIRMAN.

THE RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF SHAFTESBURY.

TREASURER.

HENRY EDMUND GURNEY, ESQ., Lombard Street.

HON. SECRETARIES.

GENERAL—MR. J. H. LLOYD, 29, Moorgate Street, E.C.

FINANCIAL—MR. RICHARD STONE, 3, Charlotte Row, Mansion House.

This Brigade has been established to provide employment for destitute Boys from our Ragged Schools, by the collection of Rags, Bones, Metals, Kitchen Stuff, Waste Paper (Old Letters, Envelopes, Account Books), Old Carpets, Goloshes, Rope, and Marketable refuse of all kinds, *for which there does not exist means of disposal generally commanding public confidence.* For such articles current prices are paid according to printed tariff.

It has now been in operation some little time, and its success has been so far remarkable; with only *Three* Trucks, in *one* month nearly four tons of stuff have been collected, the trucks always returning *full*, the demand for them being considerably greater than can be supplied. With Ten Trucks it is expected to pay commercially (*i.e.*, rent of Warehouse and Management).

This experiment, involving an outlay of nearly £200 for fittings of Warehouse, Boys' Uniform, Trucks, Printing, Postage, Advertisements, &c., has been made at nearly *the sole cost of the Committee.*

It is contemplated gradually to bring the whole of the metropolis under periodical visitation, and for that purpose no less than 650 Trucks, with 3,000 Boys and 1,000 Girls (as sorters) might be profitably employed. The provinces again will open a vast field; in fact the extent of the movement is only limited to the funds placed at the disposal of the Committee for the purchasing necessary plant and providing working capital; beyond this it will, of course, be self-supporting.

It is hoped that the practical character of the effort will commend itself to the judgment of the public, and that the Committee will receive their liberal assistance, which they very respectfully request, towards this *nationally* important work.

Donations will be gladly received by the Hon. Secretaries as above.

THE ANNUAL MEETING

OF THE

"ONE TUN" RAGGED SCHOOLS,

Perkins's Rents, near Old Pye Street,

WESTMINSTER,

WILL BE HELD (D.V.) IN THE SCHOOL-ROOM,

On WEDNESDAY EVENING, JUNE 11th, 1862.

THE RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF SHAFTESBURY

Will take the Chair at Half-past Six o'clock precisely.

The operations of the Institution comprise—Day, Evening, and Sunday Schools, Mothers' Meeting, Ragged Church, Band of Hope, Penny Bank, and Working Men's Club and Reading Room (Duck Lane).

N.B.—Funds are much required, and would be thankfully received by A. J. WOODHOUSE, Esq., 1, Hanover Square, W.; Mr. J. BURNHAM, Treasurer, 33, Sloane Square, S.W.; and by Miss ADELINE M. COOPER, Hon. Sec., 78, Colesbill Street, Eaton Square, S.W.

WEDNESDAY and THURSDAY, JUNE 18 and 19, 1862,

No. 1, Hanover Square, W.

THE BAZAAR & FANCY SALE

OF USEFUL AND ORNAMENTAL NEEDLEWORK,

Will be held (D.V.) as above,

(By the kind permission of A. J. WOODHOUSE, Esq.)

The proceeds to liquidate the debt on **The Working Men's Club and Reading Room (Duck Lane),** which was opened in December, 1860, but in consequence of its success was necessarily enlarged in December, 1861.

All interested in the Temporal and Spiritual Improvement of the Poor are earnestly entreated to assist by contributions, or by their presence.

Tickets, One Shilling each, *available for both days,* may be had of Mrs. A. J. WOODHOUSE, 1, Hanover Square; Miss HOUSTOUN DOUGLAS, 24, Eaton Place, Belgravia; and Miss ADELINE M. COOPER, 78, Colesbill Street, Eaton Square, by all of whom Articles for the Bazaar will be thankfully received.

J. E. EAREE,

BREAKFAST AND TEA CONTRACTOR,

50, HACKNEY ROAD, NEAR SHOREDITCH CHURCH.

J. E. E. respectfully begs to inform the Clergy, Superintendents of Schools, and others who are in the practice of commemorating their Anniversaries, etc., by Public Breakfasts and Tea Meetings, that he has every requisite for such occasions, comprising Tables, Coppers, and China to any extent, in a superior style, at extremely moderate charges.

J. E. E. tenders his sincere thanks to those ladies and gentlemen who have hitherto favoured him with their kind patronage, and hopes by strict attention to ensure a continuance of the same; he also begs most respectfully to solicit the favour of their recommendation.

Rout Seats on Reasonable Terms. Vans, and every requisite for Excursion Parties, with the entire Management, taken by Contract.

COMMUNICATIONS BY POST IMMEDIATELY ATTENDED TO.

References are kindly permitted to be made to the Secretaries of the Ragged School Union and the Temperance League.

TEA AND REFRESHMENT CONTRACTOR.

H. EDWARDS,

6, HIGH STREET, KINGSLAND,

Contracts to supply Tea Parties, Bazaars, School Treats, Teetotal Festivals, Midnight Meetings, &c., with all kinds of Refreshment on Liberal Terms. Good quality and management guaranteed. Any part of London and Suburbs. Letters will have strict attention. Testimonials in abundance.

COUGHS, ASTHMA, AND INCIPIENT CONSUMPTION, are EFFECTUALLY CURED by KEATING'S COUGH LOZENGES.

JUDGED by the IMMENSE DEMAND, this *Universal Remedy* now stands the first in public favour and confidence; this result has been acquired by the test of fifty years' experience.—These Lozenges may be found on sale in every British Colony, and throughout India and China they have been highly esteemed wherever introduced. For Coughs, Asthma, and all affections of the Throat and Chest, they are the most agreeable and efficacious remedy.

Prepared and Sold in Boxes, 1s. 1½d., and Tins, 2s. 9d., 4s. 6d., and 10s. 6d. each, by THOMAS KEATING, Chemist, &c., 79, St. Paul's Churchyard, London. Retail by all Druggists and Patent Medicine Vendors in the World.

N.B.—To prevent spurious imitations, please to observe that the words "KEATING'S COUGH LOZENGES" are engraved on the Government Stamp of each Box, without which none are genuine.

INSTANT RELIEF AND A RAPID CURE OF

Asthma, Consumption, Influenza, Colds, and all Disorders of the Breath, Throat, and Lungs,

ARE INSURED BY

Which have a most agreeable taste.

CURE OF A CONSUMPTIVE COUGH BY DR. LOCOCK'S PULMONIC WAFERS.

From Messrs. Carey and Co., Man of Ross House.—"A lady a few months ago told us she should never fear a consumptive cough as long as she could get a box of Dr. Locock's Wafers, although the greater part of her family had died of consumption."

Dr. Locock's Wafers give instant relief, and a rapid cure of asthma, consumption, coughs, and all disorders of the breath and lungs.

To SINGERS and PUBLIC SPEAKERS they are invaluable for clearing and strengthening the voice.

They have a pleasant taste. Price 1s. 1½d., 2s. 9d., and 11s. per Box. Sold by all Druggists.

London Female Preventive and Reformatory Institution.

Office, 200, Euston Road, near Euston Square, N.W.

PRESIDENT—REV. THOMAS DALE, CANON RESIDENTIARY OF ST. PAUL'S.

HOMES SUPPORTED BY THE INSTITUTION.

CENTRAL: 200, Euston Road, N.W
NORTH: Cornwall Place, Holloway Rd., N.
WEST: Parson's Green, Fulham, S.W.
SOUTH: St. James Place, Old Kent Rd., S.E.

The following Contributions are gratefully acknowledged in aid of this Mission of Mercy to friendless and fallen Females:—

	£	s.	d.
Rev. — Cooper	5	0	0
P. Ibotson, Esq.	1	0	0
Mrs. Cropper	5	0	0
R. A. Macfie, Esq.	3	0	0
Mrs. Tomson	0	7	0
R. Smalley, Esq.	0	10	0
W. B. Graham, Esq.	1	0	0
Mrs. Richardson	1	0	0
— Green, Esq.	10	10	0
Mrs. Williams	3	0	0
— Gill, Esq.	1	0	0
J. Hancock, Esq.	5	0	0
A few Friends	2	0	0
Col. Disbrowe	2	0	0
Mrs. B. F.	0	10	0
Mrs. Beaumont	5	0	0
Mrs. Fuller	0	10	0

Ninety-three poor young women have already been admitted to the Homes this year.

£10 is the average cost of each case to the Funds of this Institution, therefore a donation of that amount opens a way of restoration through this medium.

Subscriptions and donations in aid of this Institution will be thankfully received by

Messrs. BOSANQUET & Co., Bankers, 73, Lombard Street, E.C.
Mr. F. NICHOLLS, 14, Old Jewry Chambers, E.C.
Mr. E. W. THOMAS, Secretary, 200, Euston Road, Euston Square, N.W.

Remittances always acknowledged by return of post.

OGLE MEWS RAGGED SCHOOL,

MARYLEBONE.

SPECIAL APPEAL.

The Committee of this School again earnestly appeal to friends of Ragged Schools to aid them in their endeavour to obtain a suitable Building in which to continue their operations for the benefit of the surrounding poor. His Grace the Duke of Portland has generously granted their present site free of rent, but more than £250 is yet required to enable the Committee to erect the Building, which is now so urgently needed, more especially as Roman Catholic Schools are about to be erected in the immediate vicinity.

Plans have been adopted, and tenders for the work sent in, and the Committee trust friends will at once come forward to help, as they are unable to proceed until more funds are obtained.

Contributions will be thankfully received by—

The Rev. E. R. EARDLEY WILMOT, 10, Chandos Street, W.
Alderman Sir ROBERT W. CARDEN, 64, Wimpole Street, W.
Mr. J. G. GENT, 1, Exeter Hall, W.C.

Papers, Original and Selected.

PAYMENT FOR RESULTS.

It is rare that some problem, either social or scientific, does not engross the attention of the public. Sometimes the newspapers are replete with articles and letters on Drinking Fountains or Reformatories; and at other times Gorillas or Pythons are the most prominent subjects of discussion. From the press the subject descends into our drawing-rooms, and he who cannot talk glibly, like some admirable Crichton, on this, the sensation-topic of the day, is regarded either as an ignorant or as a very self-absorbed man.

When subjects which are less interwoven with social progress excite so much interest, it is not strange that subjects connected with education should occupy columns formerly devoted to political disquisitions. Hence, among the most prominent topics of the present day is that of payment for education by results; in other words, for what has been done, rather than for what ought to be effected. Notoriously failing, as Governmental Schools have done, either to gather in the right class of scholars, or to impart the rudiments rather than the ornamental elements of education, it is no wonder that Mr. Lowe proposed that Capitation Grants should, in future, be made dependent upon the attainments of the scholars in what has been tersely called the "three R's,"—reading, 'riting, and 'rithmetic.

Into the merits of this vexed question we do not propose to enter; for, as Ragged Schools neither are nor desire to be subsidised by the State, the possible results of the Re-revised Code do not affect our schools. Our purpose is rather to show that the principle of the Revised Code is no novel one, seeing that the promoters of Ragged Schools have, from the first, been simply *payers for results.* They thought that the Gospel could as readily save the outcast as any other class of society; and, hence, not grudging either the expense or the toil thereby entailed, these moral crusaders set up 176 Ragged Schools in the very heart of the dens of London, and that, by the Divine blessing, with signal success. Regarded at first as one of the eccentric ideas of evangelicalism, or, at the best, only visited

as the newest and the strangest lion in our modern Babel, they have gone on strengthening with their growth, until there is scarcely a foul spot of London where the gladsome sound of the Gospel trumpet is not heard. To God be all the praise, as His alone was the idea and the machinery employed.

As might be supposed, the 27,347 scholars now embraced by the London Ragged Schools cannot be taught for nothing. Last year alone, the Non-Industrial Ragged Schools cost £16,787. Yet it is pleasing to know that, whilst the yearly cost of British and National Scholars is £1 8s. per head, Ragged Scholars only cost a fraction above 12s. per head per annum.

But keeping to the idea that payment for results is a salutary principle, we would ask, Have any fruits sprung from the great expenditure? or do Ragged Schools only supply another proof that the philanthropy which devises is not always gifted with that far-reaching wisdom which can alone supply the adequate remedy for social evils? Facts, many and obvious, to all who will look facts in the face, testify that neither the givers nor the workers have laboured in vain. There has, indeed, been such a harvest of results, that Ragged School teachers may truly say that they *now* walk by *sight* as well as by faith. Hence, for almost every pound spent and for every hour given to the soul-training of the outcast or the neglected, there has been in-gathered into the social or spiritual garner fruit ripe and precious. For cast into a good loam soil, thus wondrously has the good seed of the kingdom fructified.

Need we point for example to the 700 emigrants from the London Ragged Schools, who are recognised by the colonial authorities as the most industrious amongst the industrious bread-winners in Australia or Canada? Need we refer to the 4,500 servants who have, during the past nine years, been rewarded by the Central Society, for retaining their first situations for twelve months to the satisfaction of their employers? Or need we allude to the 2,000 well-conducted Shoe-blacks who, during the past ten years, have, like modern alchymists, been engaged in transmuting the London mud into pure gold?

Or, turning from the lower to the higher—from those interests which belong to time to those which pertain to eternity—*need* we point to the former Ragged Scholars who, as voluntary teachers —many of first class aptitude—are repaying that Christian kindness which first won them for the Cross? Need we refer to the

171 scholars, or to the 143 members of our Parents' Meetings, who, once regarded as "the offscouring of all things," are now regular communicants at the Supper of the Lord? Or need we reprint those death-bed sketches which have so often graced our pages, wherein the tale is told of those who, through the blood of the Lamb, have entered in "through the gates into the city" of the Shining Ones; and where, endowed with a "new name" (Rev. ii. 17), they will sing the new song for evermore?

Other, and as striking results of our united labours might be referred to; all indicating that the Divine Promiser has been the ample Fulfiller: "thy work *shall* be rewarded, saith Jehovah" (Jer. xxxi. 16). Hence every Ragged School worker, whether by speech, by pen, or by prayer, can say, as he surveys the broad harvest already ingathered, from the first to the last, I have, through the Divine benediction, had a rich payment by enduring results!

But is our work for the social and spiritual reclamation of the outcast or the destitute yet completed? Verily not. This is indicated by the mere fact that during the past six years alone

Our Sunday Schools have increased	from	128	to	201
Our Day Schools	„	98	„	172
Our Night Schools	„	117	„	211
Our Penny Banks	„	61	„	86
Our Parents' Meetings	„	34	„	88

These figures show a total increase of 322 operations in the brief space of six years; all in vigorous action.

During the same period, too, our scholars have increased from 21,517 to 27,347, and the adults embraced by our Parents' Meetings and Ragged Churches, from 2,716 to 5,030.

We say, however, advisedly, that our warfare with vice and misery is not yet ended. For "slums," whose very air reeks of fever and cholera, yet abound; and houses where, from their overcrowded state, and from the fact that male and female, old and young, occupy the same bed, virtue can scarcely be expected to live, still laugh decency out of countenance. Thus, too, in the byeways of this great capital there are many "Dolly-shops," or unlicensed pawnbrokers, where the poor leave their clothes in semi-pledge, or the juvenile thief can take his spoil, without any fear that inconvenient questions will be asked. Nor is that race of parents yet extinct who train their offspring to crime, in order that they may pass their time in idleness or revelry. Gaffs, too, by pictorial illustrations, or by song and speech, still invest

burglary and illicit passion with that romance which is so captivating to the young, be they poor or rich. Nor is the gin-palace wanting, where the poor, alas! as well women as men, render themselves still poorer; and, first losing their health, end in losing their souls!

With temptations like these, abounding as they do in the low districts of Southwark and Westminster—to say nothing of the "Far East" and its acres of vice and woe—is it any wonder that Ragged Schools are still required? For one plan only has ever met the social and spiritual want of these London Pariahs; and should the Ragged Schools be closed, all hope for their social reclamation would fade, and the steps of those who exclaimed, "Am I my brother's keeper?" would be quickly tracked by an avenging Nemesis. Let us, then, prosecute our mission with more earnestness, fervent prayer, and greater faith; and vast as have been the fruits already vouchsafed, we doubt not that we shall yet "see greater things than these."

Not that we would dare to dictate to the Holy Ghost whether results should come from our toil or not; nor do we think that if visible fruits did not spring from our labours that we should have any right to quit this great home-mission. The work being for Christ is a sufficient reason for continuous labour; and seeing that, after what he did and suffered, we cannot doubt that he is more interested in souls than we can possibly be, we may well leave the seed sown to fructify or not as he wills. Yet, whenever did labour for Christ fail of fruitage, rich and rare? Our word of exhortation, then, to all who are engaged in this great work of evangelising the masses, whether they be givers or workers, is this, go on earnestly and in faith, and doubt not that you will be well paid for your toil by abundant and abiding results For the promise is as true now as when given to the Church of Colosse, "Of the Lord ye *shall* receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ" (Col. iii. 24). Hence, with the faith and the patience that sees no obstruction which prayer cannot conquer, let each and all in their respective sphere of labour—

"Sow beside all waters,
Where the dew of Heaven may fall;
Ye shall reap if ye be not weary,
For the Spirit breathes o'er all.
On, with thy heart in heaven,
Thy strength in thy Master's might,
Till the wide, waste places blossom
In the warmth of a Saviour's light."

THE EIGHTEENTH ANNIVERSARY

OF

THE RAGGED SCHOOL UNION.

ABSTRACT OF THE REPORT.

In the last Annual Report some allusion was made to the unfavourable statements of the Educational Commissioners about Ragged Schools—statements based on imperfect and erroneous information, but calculated to injure Ragged Schools in the minds of those who did not go further into the matter.

A minute and searching inquiry has since been made into the subject, not only by the friends of Ragged Schools, but also by a Select Committee of the House of Commons, and the result is most favourable to the cause of Ragged Schools, proving that the Commissioners' report was not only at variance with fact, but at variance also with the evidence of their own agents and inspectors. While, on the one hand, the Commissioner stated that there was not a class who were, by their poverty and degraded condition, excluded from other schools, and who were compelled to take refuge in Ragged Schools, and that Ragged Schools were not needed, and produced no good; the evidence before the Committee of the House of Commons showed quite the reverse—viz., that there were such children in large numbers, and that Ragged Schools met their case and produced amongst them a great deal of good at very little expense.

Many persons came forward to prove this. The Chairman of the Committee also stated, "that it was established by the evidence, that there does exist, in many of our large cities and towns, a class of children whom the national system of education does not reach, and who are excluded, in consequence either of the faults or misfortunes of their parents, from any participation in its benefits." He also stated, "that Ragged Schools appear by the evidence to be well organized, and to be carried on with much zeal and discretion, and to be calculated to effect a great deal of good." Also that these schools, "when properly managed, are beneficial and not injurious to the pay schools, and that a considerable number of children, through their instrumentality, are brought into the national schools, while they provide an education for many who could not otherwise be educated at all."

It is well known that those engaged in Ragged School work in London were mostly averse to Government aid, for fear that Government grants would bring Government interference, which would deaden the voluntary religious character of the work; and evidence being given accordingly, the Committee concluded by recommending, "that Ragged Schools should be left to the missionary exertions of the Ragged School managers, without any interference by the Government further than had previously existed."

Thus are we left still free to manage our Ragged Schools in our own way, according to the necessities of each locality; and thus are we left also dependent entirely for support to the voluntary efforts of zealous Christians and an enlightened public.

That we are well entitled to such co-operation and to such support, the Committee think the following report will amply show.

The *number of Schools* now in union with this Society is as follows:—

In 176 School Buildings, there are
201 Sunday Schools with 25,000 scholars.
172 Day Schools with above 18,000 scholars.
211 Evening Schools with above 9,000 scholars.

The above is the average number in attendance, the number on the books being much larger.

It would be easy to swell the number of the children; but increasing efforts are made to keep to the right class, and therefore the numbers are kept within bounds. This last year especially, in consequence of the increased attention to this point by the School agents, the numbers in some schools have been considerably reduced. But the Committee do not regret this, provided those who are thus excluded are such as can get admission into other schools, or in some other way be provided with moral and religious instruction.

The following table will show the *progress of the Union* during the eighteen years it has existed. Taking each six years from its formation, we find in

	SCHOOL BUILDINGS.	SUNDAY SCHOOLS		DAY SCHOOLS.		EVENING SCHOOLS.	
	No.	No.	Attendance.	No.	Attendance.	No.	Attendance.
1850.	95	53	10,439	45	5,558	74	5,832
1856.	150	128	16,937	98	13,057	117	8,085
1862.	175	201	24,835	172	18,315	211	9,032

This, surely, is evidence of progress, and ought to encourage us to go forward with increased zeal and confidence.

The INDUSTRIAL SCHOLARS are, this year, 3,600. The VOLUNTARY TEACHERS, 2,800. The PAID MONITORS, 420. The PAID TEACHERS, 317.

The number who regularly attend the Parents' Meetings is 2,850; while those who attend other religious services held in Ragged Schools by the Teachers, City Missionaries, and others, is above 5,000.

All these are the average numbers and attendance throughout the year.

The number reported as sent to situations from the various Ragged Schools during the year is 1,930; the number rewarded at the last Prize Meeting was, 960, namely, 540 boys, and 517 girls. All these had certificates of good conduct from their employers for twelve months at least, and among these some bore most pleasing testimony to the good character and industry of our Ragged Scholars.

It is interesting to notice that among the scholars there are now 170 who have become communicants at various Christian churches, and among the voluntary teachers 150 who were formerly scholars in the Ragged School.

These results the Committee attribute to the Christian zeal of the officers and teachers, who base all their instruction on the Bible, and who, one and all, seem determined to know nothing among their scholars but Jesus Christ and Him crucified. As one Report states, "Their plan is to base all the instruction upon religious principles. They feel the solemn truth, that each object of their care is an immortal soul, for whom they, as Christians, are

responsible for imparting a sense of the preciousness of that soul in the Saviour's sight, and the fearful consequences of permitting it to neglect a Saviour's mercy."

Many of those in the Day Schools are poor, and usually unable to do anything for a living, being young, and not able to work.

The Shoe-blacks are an exception. On the whole, they are getting a fair living; some among them being really well off. Their united earnings were last year £4,665, that is, of 362 lads.

As the Shoe-black Brigade was a healthy offshoot from Ragged Schools, so the Committee trust the Rag Brigade will also prove to be. This is a Society just set on foot to collect rags of all kinds, waste paper, bones, &c., throughout London, from large houses of business, but especially from private families, and seems likely to be successful.

The number of *Refuges* on the list has been this year reduced in consequence of several not now receiving the scholars from Ragged Schools, but rather convicted children sent by magistrates, or those who are paid for by friends. The Union continues to give help to those that remain on the list by a capitation grant for every child admitted from a Ragged School; and it is a great boon to many a poor starving child to be thus provided with food and lodging. Many of the inmates in these Refuges evince feelings of deep gratitude for the blessings thus bestowed upon them, as well as true piety.

The *summer treats* and country trips were given to some extent this last season; above 18,000 were thus rewarded from thirty-three schools on various occasions; and when it was found that many schools could not afford even this trifling expense, a fund was got up by Lord Shaftesbury and others, whereby about 2,000 children from twenty-one schools were treated on one day to an excursion to Richmond, on which occasion all enjoyed themselves very much indeed.

Mothers' Meetings continue to prosper, and fathers are frequently induced also to meet for prayer and Scriptural instruction.

The *Penny Banks*, Clothing Clubs, and Provident Funds, continue to prosper. Eighty-six Penny Banks collected £8,520 during the year, and fifty-four Clothing Clubs collected above £900.

FINANCES.

It is well known to the friends of the Ragged School, and to the readers of the Magazine, that, in consequence of the deposit fund being absorbed in grants and current expenses, some months ago the Committee resolved upon making a special appeal for funds. It is now six years since a special appeal was made, and, although the Committee have still in hand a legacy left to them some years ago, they, after mature deliberation, resolved to appeal for an additional £3,000. This sum they considered needful to put the Society into proper working order. Every one of their friends may not take the same view of such matters; but when so many local schools have undertaken a large outlay, hiring rooms, or erecting buildings—thus incurring considerable responsibilities, all of such schools looking to the Central Committee for certain grants—the Committee have ever thought it would be cruel injustice to run the risk of being compelled to withdraw such grants without some short notice. They have, therefore, considered it right, as a matter of honourable dealing towards the many local schools depending on them, to keep, if possible, six or twelve months' expenses in hand. In order to maintain this, an appeal was made, and the Committee are happy to state that nearly £2,000 out of the £3,000 asked for has been given. They trust the

other £1,000 will ere long be obtained; and they are of opinion that it would have been got ere this had it not been for two solemn events, which God in his providence, permitted to occur since the Committee first issued their appeal. One of these was the appalling accident at the Hartley colliery, which not only tended to absorb the public mind, but also to take large sums of money that might else have been given to help Ragged Schools. The other event was the lamentable and sudden death of the Prince Consort—one of the earliest donors to the Ragged School Union—one who sympathised from the very first with the object of Ragged Schools, and whose mind and heart were ever bent on doing good to the poor in every part of the United Kingdom.

In conclusion, the Committee would earnestly call upon all who have the interest of poor, destitute, and outcast children at heart, to rally round the Ragged School flag, and help forward this noble cause.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE EIGHTEENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RAGGED SCHOOL UNION,

Held in Exeter Hall, On Monday Evening, May 12th, 1862.

THE RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF SHAFTESBURY IN THE CHAIR.

Every part of the hall was densely crowded. On the platform were Lord Stratford de Redcliffe, Sir R. W. Carden, the Hon. Arthur Kinnaird, M.P., the Revs. Emilius Bayley, M.A., William Cadman, M.A., J. P. Chown, Newman Hall, Dr. Merle D'Aubigne, and Dr. Hewlett, Wm. Cuthbertson, of Sidney, Mr. Joseph Payne, Deputy-Judge of Middlesex, Messrs. Watson and Cuthbertson, of the Sunday School Union, Dr. Crawford, and Messrs. W. J. Maxwell, A. Haldane, &c., &c.

The Meeting was opened by the singing of the hymn commencing—

"All hail the power of Jesus' name."

Prayer was offered by the Rev. J. H. Moran.

The Report was then read by Mr. William Locke, the Hon. Secretary.

The Chairman, in introducing the business, said:—My good friends, supporters and teachers of the Ragged Schools, this is the eighteenth anniversary of the Ragged School Union; and what on earth can I say, having taken the chair eighteen times, and having made eighteen speeches? What can I say but what is most trite, worn out, and tedious to all of you who are to listen? I have been so often asked to say a few words, and I have so often said a few words, that I have scarcely any words left; and those words that I have left shall be used to congratulate you on the progress of the Society, and offer humble and hearty thanks to Almighty God for the signal blessing which he has bestowed upon our efforts, and to join with you in a humble prayer that he will extend his grace yet more and more so long as there shall be a necessity for operations like ours. Now we meet in more tranquil and less exciting times than we did at the last anniversary. You have survived—(can you believe it? do you trust in your own existence?)—you have survived the Report of her Majesty's Commissioners. Here you are, notwithstanding all their objections, notwithstanding all the things that were called facts; here you are in a better condition than you were before, able to set them and all calumniators at defiance, and to tell them that all you require is to be left alone (great applause), and to be allowed to state, year by year, the accumulating facts which go to prove the necessity of your operations, and the signal success with which they have been crowned. Aye, and I think too you will

agree with me, that it was sound advice which I gave you, not only last year, but years before, when I said that however useful, however beneficial might be grants from the Privy Council for other schools, there was a peculiarity in the Ragged School system that would not admit of that intervention. If you had ever admitted that intervention, what would be your condition now? Why, that great and energetic spirit which has elicited this mighty support, which has given vigour and consistency to our efforts, which has called forth so much sympathy, so much order, so much zeal, and so much to encourage in this great cause, would have been extinguished by government intervention; and then, by the withdrawal of the grants, you would have been left upon the sea shore like a stranded vessel, without any possibility of there being breathed into the system the spirit which had been driven away. But now consider what has been stated in the Report to-night. Here are statements of success in all departments; departments of greater extent, and departments of smaller extent; success not only in the Ragged Schools themselves, but in the Fathers' Meetings, the Mothers' Meetings, and the Penny Clubs. Judge of the effects produced over the whole surface of society by this diving down to the very roots of the mischief on the part of two or three thousand teachers, and by their endeavouring to bring up children from the depths of human degradation and misery, in order that they may bask in the light of the Lord Jesus Christ. Shall any one tell me that efforts of this kind can be made without wonderful results being achieved? Nothing but infidelity, or rather folly amounting to stupidity of the most aggravated order, mixed with infidelity, could wish to break up this Association. When you have the Committee of the House of Commons declaring that after having gone into the whole matter, and touched it at all its points—touched what was delicate and what was strong, what was weak and what was mighty, they have come to this conclusion—that the Ragged School system is doing a vast deal of good, that in all directions it is improving a miserable class of population, that, without our efforts, would never be reached at all, and that the best thing that can be done is to leave us where we wish to be left, and to give us a few good words of advice whenever there is occasion to give them. Aye, let any one who knew this city some fifteen or twenty years ago, go into those same former haunts, those same former recesses, those same former dens of wretchedness and infamy, and let him observe the mighty change which has been wrought on the surface of society. I am not saying—I am not so foolish as to say—that we have attained everything we desired, I am not so foolish as to say that there is not still an amount of crime, and sorrow, and misery, and intemperance, and vice, which ought to put to shame a Protestant country, and all the members of Christian churches; but then, at the same time, I rejoice to say that things are not so bad as they were. If, however, God had not put it into the hearts of men at that early period to come forward like a band of missionaries to invade the strongholds of vice and of the devil, the condition of this metropolis would have been so appalling that we should not, perhaps, have been able to meet in this room to talk of our successes or our failures, as we are doing, without disturbance and violence. The condition of things then would, I believe, have been such that combination for religious purposes would have been almost impossible. If you go among the people who have been benefited by our efforts, they will tell you what have been the results of our labours as respects them. They will tell you that, in their opinion, all these agencies are founded on true principles, and directed to the best ends. These agencies have then, I say, produced great results already; but I believe that, under the blessing of God, they will produce far greater results before ten years have passed over our heads. Aye, but in order to effect that, we must have a combination of all those who desire the advancement of religion,

and of all who have the means of assisting this great work. I say this because, in the first place, we must be joined, one and all, whether we belong to the Church of England or whether we belong to some one of the great bodies of Nonconformists, holding evangelical truth; all who care for the advancement of Christ's kingdom, to whatever church they may belong, must join together, heart and hand, body and soul, for the purpose of bringing to completion this great, this mighty undertaking. Ay, and I have another little word to say, though in the strictest confidence. I must say it, and therefore no one will take it amiss (laughter). I will here venture to give a little advice, because there is a proverb which says, "Present company always excepted." Now I say, and I say with deep regret, that there is, if not an actual falling off, certainly not an increase proportionate to the nature of the work, in the number of voluntary teachers. We need the services of voluntary teachers, both male and female, to a far greater extent than we have them at present; and I hear with shame and sorrow from many quarters of London, that sometimes many hundreds of children present themselves in the course of an evening, praying for instruction, and that they are sent away because, although there is ample space in the room, there are not teachers enough to give them the instruction they desire. Is that, I ask, a state of things which ought to exist in a metropolis like this, where there are so many persons in easy circumstances, where there are so many persons of education, where there are so many who profess to have a zeal for God in their hearts, and a desire to advance the interests of these poor, neglected, and destitute children? I am told, moreover, that those associations from which I and others ventured to predict the happiest results, and the most ample co-operation in this great work—I mean the Young Men's Christian Associations—from whom we expected to obtain an ample supply of teachers, who, on Sunday evening at least, would go forth with the Bible in their hands and on their lips, and minister to these poor, degraded, outcast children that truth which alone can make them wise unto salvation; I am told, on the contrary, that these associations, far from sending out the harvest of teachers that we expected, are drawing their limits closer and closer, and that many of these young men, from whom we anticipated such ample assistance, are determined to spend their evenings in reading-rooms, listening to lectures, or engaged in theological studies; as they say, improving their minds, but undoubtedly not improving their practice; as if they could find in speculative study those benefits to their own souls which arise from practical Christianity (hear, hear). I have no patience with your learned men. I love learning as much as most men, though I have very little of it myself; but, at the same time, I dislike those learned men who cram their minds with a certain amount of knowledge which they can bring out and display at some place of entertainment, or at a party, not seeing that the knowledge they require is intended for other purposes, and especially to be poured forth in ample streams to fertilize the desert of fallen humanity. (Great cheering.) Now all this is, as I said before, in confidence; but I do hope and trust that every one of you who may have a brother connected with such associations as those to which I refer, will, in a quiet and friendly manner, just tell him that you did, when you were at a certain meeting, hear a certain hint given, and, in your opinion, that hint contained a monstrous amount of good sense. Aye, and if you will but band yourselves in this great work, if you will but address yourselves to it with faith and fear, bringing into play all the energies you can command, and praying for God's blessing upon every act you do, and every word you utter, you have before you such a career of usefulness as is seldom given to the great and mighty. Why, there is not one in this great audience which I am now addressing, young or old, male or female, who may

not be the means of doing more permanent good, more political good, more social good, more religious good, in his generation than fell a few years ago to the lot of persons possessing the greatest talents, the highest station, and superabundant wealth. We now know the evil, and know what is the remedy for it. We know what has to be done, and how to do it. Moreover, we have to deal with a class of persons who are no longer filled with distrust, who no longer think that we are come to spy out the nakedness of the land, who no longer erect themselves into an attitude of opposition the moment we begin to speak about the word of God and their own souls. I am now speaking to many young women, and I tell you all, my good girls—(laughter and applause)—I take the liberty of age, you see—I look upon you as my daughters, and you will prove my good daughters if you take the advice which I shall give you. I tell you that there is not one among you who might not safely go into almost any one of the recesses of London, however low, however miserable, however degraded it may be, you might go there safely; you would be received with kindness, you would be listened to with attention, you would be asked to come again, and you would return without having had a look that bordered on insult (applause), so great is the influence of female virtue and female piety. I heard this most remarkable fact—a fact which is infinitely to the credit of the gallantry of the British people, and particularly to the credit of the class with which it is especially connected. It is only about two months ago since I went to inspect a Ragged School in one of the worst parts of London. I heard that the history of that school was this:—For a long time after it was commenced, it was almost impossible to carry on that school on account of the disorderly character of the neighbourhood. Night after night the boys created a disturbance, broke the windows, and left the wretched master in a state of perplexity not to be described, and hardly to be endured. What was the wise, novel, and wonderful expedient hit upon by the Ragged School Union to meet this case? They determined to withdraw the master and appoint a mistress. From the hour that that determination was carried out, all was order and peace; from that hour all was decency and obedience, because there came the soft, gentle influence of woman. Oh, if women did but know how great is their power, how strong is their influence! If they go forth in a spirit of piety, and with that armour of modesty which is the most unassailable and the most impressive garment that woman can wear,—if they go among even the most brutal part of our population, they will soon see what a powerful effect is produced by their presence. Every word that falls from their lips, and every look that beams from their eyes, will, if it be but tinged with the hues of Christianity, make many converts of their audience; and although they may not send them away altogether as they could wish, converted in heart, they will send them away with an improvement in their demeanour, and again to submit to influences which they have before found so delightful. Well, now, the report tells us of what is being done in this work by persons of all ages and conditions in life; from the wealthy to those who are very poor, from those who are highly educated to those who know but little. It is curious to see how varied are the agents of this Union. Some years ago, as many of you may remember, a most inestimable present was made to me by the Ragged School teachers; 2,300 teachers subscribed to that testimonial, and of these 1,700 signed their names and gave their occupations. Among the 1,700 there were no less than 175 different callings in life—from the opulent tradesman down to the poorest costermonger; and there was in one instance, I believe, a man who gets his livelihood by sweeping the streets. This shows how universally diffused the agency is. When you have hit upon a system in which persons of all ranks, all degrees of property and of education may be combined in the furtherance of the great work to

be accomplished; a system in which the wealthiest Christians can unite even with the man who sweeps a crossing, provided that man had a knowledge of the Bible; I say when you have hit upon a system of that kind, you have devised that which will not only be able to withstand all resistance and all denial, but is as manifestly the work of God as any good thing that was ever sent down from heaven to bless the children of men. Under these circumstances let us go forth from this room with fresh resolutions. If our efforts hitherto have been great, let us resolve that, with God's blessing, they shall be greater. Search out, my friends, fresh labourers for this work. Go into every part of London for that purpose. Do not despise the very meanest in appearance; look not to his garb, but to his heart and mind. If he cannot teach, he can run about to exhort the poor, ragged children to come to the school, and to tell parents of their responsibility both in this world and in the world to come. Go forth from this room determining that, under God's blessing, you will make an effort to give a true, moral, solid, and religious meaning to a homely saying, and that you and I, and every one who has a heart to feel, a mouth to speak, and a body to work, will give a "long pull, a strong pull, and a pull altogether." (Great cheering.)

The Rev. Emilius Bayley, M.A., Rector of St. George's, Bloomsbury, moved the first resolution, which was—"That the Report now read, which shows most plainly that God's blessing continues to rest upon this Society, be received; and that the gentlemen whose names appear on the printed list, do form the Committee and Officers for the ensuing year." He said, that the address to which the meeting had just listened, though it might have been most encouraging to them, was most discouraging to those that were to speak, for his lordship had told them that it was impossible for him, with all his knowledge, and all his experience with reference to that great movement, to say anything which was not trite and common-place. If it was difficult for his lordship to address them, surely it must be much more so for those who had not his lordship's experience and his lordship's knowledge of this subject. Moreover, his lordship had taken them into his confidence, and given them his confidential and fatherly advice. He had thus gained their ear for exhortation and for counsel, which made it exceedingly difficult for those who came after to follow in the track prescribed to them. He (Mr. Bayley), therefore, asked the indulgence of the meeting whilst he addressed them, for a few minutes, upon the subject which had called them together. He appeared there simply in consequence of his position as the incumbent of a metropolitan parish, and he was exceedingly happy, for several reasons, to move the resolution entrusted to him. In the first place, it afforded him an opportunity of bearing his humble testimony to the great principle of Christian unity. They understood, he believed, a distinction between unity and uniformity. They could not compass uniformity at present—and yet he did not know that that was exactly true, because they aimed at one kind of uniformity in the Ragged School Union—uniformity of raggedness; but uniformity, generally speaking, they could not attain to. But they could attain to, and in that movement they manifested, a spirit of unity; and where there was substantial unity of faith, there ought to be unity of affection, and, under certain circumstances, unity of action; and he trusted that nothing which took place in this or any future year, in the way of controversy, would tend to break in upon the harmony, and the concord, and the unity which existed among those who were carrying on the work of the Society. Another reason why he gladly addressed them was, that after some experience and careful watching of the movement for several years, he was thoroughly persuaded that it was most necessary, most safe, and most blessed and beneficial in its results. They knew better than he did how necessary it was. But it was also safe, and the dangers which some

predicted as likely to accrue from it were wholly without foundation. It had been supposed by some that it would interfere with the system of National and British School education, but he had found in his own neighbourhood that, so far from the Ragged School operations interfering with the progress of National School education, there had been a simultaneous increase in the number of children under instruction in both classes of schools. In dealing with the beneficial character of Ragged School operations, he hardly knew where to begin. There was only one document to which they were not to look, if they were to obtain evidence of the beneficial character of these schools, and that was the report of her Majesty's Commissioners on the subject. This was an age of invention. There were exhibited in the Great Exhibition, which was now open, marvellous specimens of human invention. Human ingenuity, and human skill, and human industry were there manifested and exhibited in a most marvellous and wonderful manner; but he believed that of all modern inventions which manifested the skill and the ingenuity, if not the industry, of men, there was no invention which could come near that report of her Majesty's Commissioners upon the subject of Ragged Schools (hear, hear); and if anything deserved a place in the International Exhibition, as a specimen of human ingenuity and invention, it was so much of the report of the Commissioners as stated that they could find no instance in which benefit had been conferred by these schools, or such benefit as to compensate for the expense incurred in imparting it. But in spite of that statement the system had, as they had been told to-night, survived the attack and assault of that report. The real answer, or, at least, one of the substantial answers, to the objections brought against the movement was, that the schools were not intended merely to teach the children reading, writing, and arithmetic, but that every Ragged School was the centre of a great mission movement in the midst of its locality; and he believed that the great body of Christian teachers were animated by the one single desire to make known to the children the doctrines of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in their simplicity and in their purity. There were for the children Day Schools, and Night Schools, and Sunday Schools; there were for the parents Mothers' Meetings and Weekly Lectures; and there were for both parents and children Penny Banks, Halfpenny Banks, and, he believed, in some cases, even Farthing Banks. He was glad to hear that, when it was suggested that the banks should be opened for the reception of the pence of the children on the Sunday afternoon, the idea was repudiated and rejected by the Ragged School Union. (Cheers.) He was persuaded that if they were to do any good amongst those degraded portions of our populace, they must lift high and hold high the standard of the sanctity of God's day. (Applause.) Then there were last, but not least in importance, the Sunday Services for the poor, which reached a class of the population which even the theatre services had failed to reach. Of course, there were difficulties in the Ragged School movement. There were always difficulties in the civilized portion of the community dealing with the uncivilized portions; but although there were these difficulties, surely they were not insurmountable. One of the great hindrances to the work was the wretched state of the dwellings of the poor. He had just received an account of the number of rooms under the level of the ground, which were the abode of families in the parochial districts of St. Giles and St. George, Bloomsbury, and he found that the number of families inhabiting one room and living under ground, was 508. When such facts as that were stated, no one could be surprised at the moral leprosy which affected this great city. No doubt, as the noble Chairman had said, a vast change had taken place in this country during the last twenty or thirty years. A controversy had lately been going on in the papers as to the last words of that great statesman, Mr. Pitt: "O my

country! God save my country!" And surely the state in which he left his country was, in many respects, a sad one, carrying on, as it was at that time, its mighty struggle with the First Napoleon. But if the statesman could now look down upon this land, what a mighty contrast would he see between the state of things then and the state of things now; and no statesman, philanthropist, or Christian departing from this world would now have occasion to look back upon England, and say, "O my country! God save my country!" For what was now the position of England? Was she not towering high in moral beauty, in moral courage, and in moral influence as the land of liberty, the land of freedom, the land of happiness; a refuge for the destitute and the outcast—known and acknowledged as such by all the nations of the earth? And what was the chief glory of England at this moment? Not her armies, not her fleets, but the mighty evangelistic effort of which she was the centre and the heart; and of all the great movements in which the philanthropists of this day were engaged, and of all those movements which the noble Chairman aided, there was not one around which the sympathies of the Chairman's heart were more closely twined than the Ragged School movement. It was one of England's greatest glories, because it went down to the very depth and roots of evil; and it was one of those movements upon which our blessed Lord must look with the utmost complacency, inasmuch as he had compassion on the multitudes when he saw them fainting, and "as sheep having no shepherd." (Cheers.)

The Rev. NEWMAN HALL, LL.B., in seconding the resolution said:—There is a gentleman here to-night, a dear brother of mine, who landed in England yesterday, after an absence of thirty-three years. He, for the first time saw an omnibus only, as it were, an hour or two ago; and here to-night he sees for the first time the meeting of the Ragged School Union; and amongst many other noble enterprises that had been originated and carried on since his absence this is one. I rejoice that he is here for his first visit at the meeting of this noble institution; I rejoice that he has seen our noble Chairman presiding over us; and I rejoice that he has listened to the very nobility of speech-making to-night—manly, and massive, and practical, and heart-thrilling. I feel, with my reverend predecessor in the resolution which I have the honour to second, the difficulty unfeignedly. I seldom felt more the difficulty of coming after a speaker than I feel it to-night; and every other speaker must feel the difficulty of adequately following in the steps of our noble Chairman. However, responding to the invitation which has been given to me, I had great pleasure in seconding the resolution. The facts which have been read to you speak for themselves; the numbers of children actually rescued, the numbers of teachers who were once amongst the ragged and the outcast, and now employed in doing good to others, the number who were once amongst the ragged and the outcast, now members of churches and rejoicing in the hope of heaven. But apart from such facts as these, the very name of our Society goes direct to the heart of humanity—a union of schools for the ragged. "The ragged?" Are there, then, the ragged in this England of ours—this England, so mighty, so famous, and so free? Are there the ragged? In this our England, in whatever part of which the traveller is journeying he sees presented to him the aspect of a most lovely garden, are there the ragged? In this our England, with its picturesque villages, and thronging towns, and provincial cities, emulating the capitals of many other lands, are there the ragged? In this our London, so vast, so wealthy, so renowned, and, at this special season, so full of gaiety; where the representatives of varied climes have met together, are there the ragged? Yes, indeed; within stone's throw of streets of palaces, there are the ragged. At the back of magnificent warehouses whose fronts display the

untold wealth of the merchant to attract the untold wealth of the customer, there are the ragged. Close to brilliant thoroughfares, where there crowd the splendid equipages in which elegantly are lounging those who are being easily borne along on the various quests of pleasure, there are the ragged. Within sound of the rustling silks of beauty and of fashion, there are the ragged. Yes; wealth and want, finery and filth, banqueting and beggary, royalty and rags, are in close neighbourhood; and while it becomes the Christian philanthropist from the highest motives to do all he can to mitigate the evil, the patriot and the statesman should not neglect those gathering clouds of ignorance and of wretchedness out of which, if neglected, may suddenly dart the lightnings that shall injure, if not destroy, the glittering pinnacle of the social fabric. (Loud cheers.) Mr. Hall made a passing allusion to what he termed the "marvellous report" of that "wonderful Commission" appointed by her Majesty, which confessed that it could not find a class of the community in circumstances needing such an institution as this. There were multitudes in similar ignorance, and multitudes who looked only at that surface of things which it cost no labour and no pain to observe, and who, if they would go down beneath the surface, would soon find the fearful necessity for such efforts as these. It was the duty of those engaged in the Ragged School movement, and was essential to the thorough and consistent advocacy of the cause of ragged children, not only to endeavour to mitigate the evil, but also to investigate its causes. What was the cause of the raggedness of the children which necessitated the institutions for the ragged? Was it the unavoidable poverty of our population? Was it the dearth of food and the lowness of wages? No one could say that. Work was plentiful; wages were good; thanks to free trade, food was plentiful and cheap. The British workman might be as well off as any workman under the sun. Why was it, then, that there were so many ragged children? Don't ignore the fact: look away from all particular questions. He was there simply in one capacity. Let them not twit and taunt him, or any one else, with identification with anything else. He was there, not as a member of any particular church or sect, or as connected with any society whatsoever, but simply as a friend of Ragged Schools; and no one could adequately represent that interest without asking the question, What is the cause of the raggedness of the children? and there could be but one grand reply: It is the drinking customs of the country. Take any twenty ragged children; investigate what their fathers were; and he would hesitate not to say that in nineteen cases out of every twenty it would be found that their fathers were drunkards. He would venture another assertion: let those nineteen fathers become temperate, and before another twelve months had passed away, those children would no longer need the instrumentality of the Ragged School, but would be clothed and taught at the father's own expense. Those who were endeavouring in every way to change those drinking customs, and to persuade and encourage our working population to break away from that fearful habit which degraded them socially, physically, and spiritually, were amongst the best friends of the Ragged School enterprise. Another great cause of the evil was that the workman after his toil had no healthful, innocent recreation, and that the Christian Church had ignored this element in our constitutions; that we wanted play as well as piety and hard work. Another great cause of the evil was one which had been already alluded to—the horrible homes of the poor. He knew that when a man became sober he soon left the wretched cellar, and got a better habitation for himself; but they must not ignore the fact that drunkenness acted and reacted; drunkenness made the wretched homes, and the wretched homes made the drunkenness. How hopeless, and discouraging, and difficult it was to tender

religious advice, and impart Scripture instruction, to persons dwelling in places so filthy and wretched that no person in the meeting would like to keep a pig in them, or if he did he would not like to eat the bacon which it yielded. (Laughter and cheers.) Some of our great capitalists were ready to subscribe their money to any preposterous or ridiculous undertaking that promised a return: why did not some of them invest their money in providing comfortable and convenient houses for the poor on such a principle that a proper interest could be obtained? (Hear, hear.) The poor man now had often to pay an exaggerated rent for the worst accommodation. After some further remarks, the reverend speaker thus concluded: Think of these poor children, tossed about and neglected unless you lay hold of them. There is a picture which perhaps some of you may have seen in the International Exhibition, by one of our first masters. It is called "The Abandoned." There you see the vessel rolling about in a stormy sea. Once with masts erect, and canvas fully spread, and hold well stored, she left many a port, followed by the blessings of thousands. Her deck, covered with her passengers and crew, was often on a Sunday the scene of holy worship, prayer, and praise, and meditation on God's Word, and often the scene of innocent festivities; and often when the stormy wind was blowing, that vessel, manned by its gallant crew under the guidance of its skilful captain, had seemed instinct with life, breasting the billows and battling with the waves. But now look at her. Her masts have gone overboard; her crew have deserted her—not one left—no steersman holds the helm. The waves are breaking over her; she lies in the trough of the sea; she is drifting with the tide; and there is no getting men to guard her from those rocks on which she must soon be shivered to pieces. It is the *abandoned*. But ah! look at the abandoned child. I don't say, Consider what that child was. Look at it *as it is*: abandoned, drifting downward, downward, in the tide of death. But what may it become? Freighted with knowledge and with virtue, guided by wisdom, wafted by human sympathy as well as Divine grace, it may distribute on the right hand and on the left, like some gallant vessel touching at various ports, inestimable benefits while on its voyage to the haven of heavenly peace. And will you suffer that little child to remain abandoned? It is a child; ah, what a child! It has a soul: one of whom Jesus said, "Of such is the kingdom of heaven." If the little child dies an infant, it goes at once to heaven. Equally with the child of the noblest prince in the world, that ragged child, that beggar babe, will be claimed by the angels above; and will you let it perish when you know what it may become? Look at that wild wilderness. The farmer's industry and skill are employed upon it, and it becomes a flourishing paradise. Look at that bare canvas. By the painter's brush it becomes radiant with loveliness and eloquent with sentiment. Look at that rough block of stone. By the sculptor's chisel we see it transformed into the very embodiment of all that is beautiful and strong in "the human form divine." Look at that child—its ragged exterior only a fitting emblem of the neglect of its poor soul—untaught, or taught only what is vicious—an offence, a pest to society! But what may it become? An honest man, a useful citizen, a devout Christian, a companion of angels, a servant and a child of God And while art and science are so diligent in producing that which perishes, shall we be less diligent in labouring to rescue from ruin that which, by God's blessing upon our labours, shall outshine and outlive the stars? (Loud applause.)

The CHAIRMAN: I will now introduce to you a noble peer who, when he was ambassador at Constantinople, sought by the dignity of his office and his own noble heart, to do everything in his power to advance that which is the basis of the Ragged School Union—the circulation of the Holy Scriptures. Therefore I will call upon my friend to speak a

few words—the Lord Stratford de Redcliffe.

Lord Stratford de Redcliffe, who, on rising, was received with loud cheers, said that he could not attribute the kind manner in which they had received the mention of his name to any other cause than the generous and too indulgent view which his noble friend in the chair had taken of his character and services. He confessed that he came to the meeting more from curiosity than for any other purpose, being anxious to see in what manner the system of Ragged Schools was working, and what interest it occasioned in this great and populous metropolis. He came on account of the interest which he attached to the great subject of education at large; but he was not sufficiently acquainted with the particulars which related to the subject of the Ragged School, to justify a hope of adding to the interest of the occasion or to the information that had been already given. He found from the report which had been presented, that there was every appearance of the Union societies progressing with a degree of success which must be gratifying to every lover of humanity. In looking round him he saw that vast hall filled even to the ceiling with intelligent countenances beaming with the same sentiment of humanity, and responding so largely, and so deeply, and in so eloquent a manner, to that more formal eloquence which had proceeded from the platform. Those circumstances impressed him with the belief that that which at a distance excited his interest was really a practical thing, founded upon a real necessity, advancing with real progress, and justly engaging the interest and the support of numerous persons in this city. The subject of education itself was one, the importance of which could not be too largely estimated. As history taught us, there was only too much reason to believe that the country which prospered in material advantages, and which did not carry with it, in proportion, knowledge, and moral sentiment, and religious feeling, so far from advancing towards a permanent state of prosperity, was advancing towards that which would finally prove a decline and a destruction. The attention which had been paid by the public and the legislature to the great subject of education during the last twenty or thirty years, had gone far to remove the reproach of indifference to that great subject which prevailed previous to that period. A quarter of a century ago he was one of a committee of the House of Commons appointed to investigate the question of Government support. He believed that every member of that committee was animated with a desire to recommend the Government to advance education as far as possible; but at that time there was so little disposition on the part of the nation to take advantage of legislative enactments for the support of education, and the number of persons capable of administering education was so small, that the committee, in the conscientious discharge of their duty, were obliged to limit their recommendation to an expenditure of £30,000 a year. That quarter of a century had passed, and he found now that nearly a million of money was expended by the legislature with the approbation of the country to promote the interests of the same cause. One might, perhaps, draw from this the conclusion that it was unnecessary for private benevolence to interfere, and that this great subject might be left, with all its ramifications, to its own natural workings. But this was not the case. In proportion to the extent of a society, the natural corruptions of the mind were at work, and there would always be a large number of persons in the very midst of luxury and prosperity to whom the light of benevolence could not reach in any legislative form. It had been observed that the youths who had been brought from the holes and cellars of London into the Ragged Schools, had been beneficially influenced by having the instruction offered to them by female teachers, and that the softening influence of that part of humanity had been employed with singular success in alluring

them to better habits. Nobody who had lived a few years in this world—certainly none who had lived in it as long as he had—could be insensible to that charming influence. It pervaded every part of society, and at this moment, above all, men should be inclined to pay a high tribute to it, when they saw placed upon the throne a Sovereign of the sex to which that influence belonged, with the same generous virtues and the same noble character that so much embellished it. Although in the midst of affliction, she was setting an example of the deepest interest in everything that interested her subjects, forgetting her own sorrows in order to shed a ray of comfort, at one time, upon the sufferings in Lancashire; and, at another time, upon the calamitous occurrences in the mining districts; always reflecting those better qualities which she had found among the more generous of her subjects, and setting an example of virtue which was calculated to extend beyond the present generation. He concluded by saying, that he should go from the meeting with a most favourable opinion of the institution which the audience had so much at heart, and with a sincere prayer that these good intentions which they had manifested might continue, and produce results commensurate with the advantages which must be seen to belong to them. (Cheers.)

The resolution was carried unanimously.

A collection was then made on behalf of the funds of the Society.

The Rev. J. P. Chown, of Bradford, next addressed the meeting. He said: The resolution, my lord, that the Committee have done me the honour of asking me to move is as follows:—"That the many blessings that flow to the destitute and depraved classes of London, by the instrumentality of Ragged Schools and their auxiliary operations, entitle these institutions to the hearty sympathy and liberal support of the Christian public; and that the special appeal now made for additional funds ought to be responded to by every true philanthropist, and by every sincere Christian within these realms." There are many considerations, my lord, by which we shall all feel, doubtless, that we might seek to enforce the obligations that have been already so eloquently, so powerfully, and so repeatedly urged upon us; and many considerations by which we might urge the importance of such a resolution as that which has just been read, and of such a work as that, the advancement and prosperity of which we are on the present occasion desirous to promote. Among the considerations by which I should always feel bound to plead for Ragged Schools is one that has been brought before us once and again this evening, and that is, the pitiable condition in which the Ragged School finds those whom it seeks to benefit and bless—immortal beings in a Christian land, with no education, very often, but that of penny theatres, licentious companions, and felons' dens; with no school, very often, till thus sought out, but that in which, too frequently, the pickpocket, and the burglar, the hangman, and the devil, are the chief professors; and living, too often, before Christian kindness and charity search them out, in as utter ignorance of what pertains to their souls' salvation as the veriest savage that roams the desert, or the heathen before his bauble god. This Society finds them often not so corrupt as they would be in after years if left to themselves; but always, I presume, in circumstances more or less of extremest peril and most hazardous temptations. It finds those children of which my brother, Mr. Hall, has just spoken so eloquently, like flowers of Paradise, growing in the blackened, smoky clefts of the very pit of perdition itself; finds them living sometimes in those underground abodes of which we have heard to-night, where savage lust and brutal passion harden the heart and drug the conscience, and brand the very brow; finds them living where such language as none of us are accustomed to listen to, and where such words as "the soul," "the Saviour," and "glory," and "hea-

ven" would be like a foreign language, that would sound strange to their ears, and be scarcely understood; finds them living too often where, up to that time, none but the tax-gatherer, the police officer, or the city missionary had ever ventured; living in an atmosphere, both physically and morally, from which the great majority of those now present might well shrink as from the very pestilence itself. All honour, my lord, a thousand times over, to the brave heroes, though their praise is yet unsung and unrecorded, who the other day were ready to plunge down into the dark depths of that Hartley Colliery, and grope in the poisoned gloom, willing to be dragged up almost corpses themselves, if they might only have strength to bear the remains of those who had perished in the pit, and been their friends and companions. And all honour to those nobler heroes still in moral labour and zeal, who are ready to plunge down into deeper depths, more terrible degradation, snatch the jewels of immortal souls, down-trodden as they are in the black, miry pit, deliver them from their incrustation, and set them to blaze, as some of them are blazing already, like the morning star, from the diadem upon the brow of Emanuel himself. It is an awful thing, as we have been reminded to-night, that there should be such a class in a land like ours, which, beyond any other land under the broad heavens, abounds with the blessings of civilization and Christianity: and, above all, in a time like ours, when those blessings are extended more than at any previous time, to almost all classes around us. But there they are, and it is for us to seek, by every possible means, to deliver them from their degradation, and pour the blessings of Christian charity into their souls. Then there is another thought, my lord, by which I always feel that I am bound to plead for Ragged Schools, and that is, the thought of what the condition in which we find them must lead on to if they are left in it. Why, if it should only remain stationary it would be more than any Christian heart could ever bear to think of; and it can no more remain stationary than the leprosy or the fire. It must go on. That awful power of evil! if I could bring it up upon this platform before you to-night in any form which language might enable me to describe, I would ask you to look at all its inevitable workings upon the soul of man, and upon the ragged child to whom we have been pointed. See how its inevitable tendency is to separate betwixt that immortal soul and God, the Fountain of all life, apart from whom it never can be blessed; how its inevitable tendency is to fill that soul with a mob of evil spirits rather than the pure Spirit of God, which should come down and make it a little heaven below; how its tendency is to efface the Divine image from that bright, broad brow, and leave there its own infernal brand to tell of the awful work that thus early in life has been accomplished; how it will drag down that spirit from one depth of degradation to another, till at last it shall hurl it into everlasting misery, quench its every spark of hope and earnest desire, and, in exultant mockery and ringing laughter, such as fiends alone can pour out, triumph over its own work in the destruction of that soul for ever. (Loud applause). And it is not merely that there is that degradation, fearful and rapid as it is, but that it accomplishes its purpose on the entire being. That evil spirit, when it lays its hand upon the soul, quenches the light of the bright eye; it brands the countenance, it palsies the arm, it degrades the frame, and, if it does not destroy the intellect, it does a worse thing—it sharpens the powers the more effectually for the destruction of soul and body too. No sword-blade ever framed, no poison-draught ever mixed, no fire-flame ever kindled, no pestilence ever known, is so terrible in its power, or so destructive in its influence. And then it makes a man not only degraded, but degrading; makes him a curse as well as a sorrow, so that if he is left in that course his words are such that innocence and virtue may not listen to them; his deeds are embodiments of

all that is corrupt and degrading; his very breath not only dims but blights and withers all it falls upon, and his presence amongst those around him is not only a sorrow, but a curse to all with whom he has to do. Think of that evil power, like some poison-river pouring itself on, overflowing its banks, filling a thousand other channels, overflowing their banks, spreading desolation all around, and then say whether the man who goes to its fountain-head and not only cuts off the poison torrent, but pours into those channels the crystal stream of the water of life, fresh and pure as it leaps from under the throne of God, is not doing a work that demands our sympathy and claims our prayers. (Applause.) That is the work that our Ragged Schools have done in hundreds of cases, the work they still are doing, at the very thought of which one's heart, if one has one, leaps up within the bosom in entreaty to one's fellow-men, in prayer to God for his blessing, and in the wish from the lowest depth of one's soul, "God speed and bless this glorious cause." There is another thought, too, that I can never escape when I look at this work, my lord, and that is this. that the work must be done now if it is done at all. Why directly those boys will be men, and if left alone, will be beyond your reach, many of them in our jails, in our penal settlements, in graves unwept, dishonoured, and premature. If they are not there they will be beyond your reach; they will have become corrupted and degraded till you can scarcely touch the heart within them—till you can scarcely evoke a responsive chord in answer to your appeal. And not only that, but we shall be gone soon; and if we stand at the bar of God, and they before us, alas for us, if, with all we have been taught, we have never taught them, and with all with which God has ever blessed us we have never blessed them! But, oh, however great the work, the present time is ours. There may be some who have shrunk from it, felt it so formidable, felt it so repulsive, that they may have retired from contact with it. Dear friends, remember the brave soldier who came on to the battle-field when his own countrymen were first in ignoble retreat before the enemy. He looked upon them for a moment, and then he looked at the westering sun just dropping down to the horizon. "Men!" he said, looking at his watch at the time, "there is time to fight another battle, *and to win it, too.*" And so with us. Have you shrunk from a monster evil with which you ought to contend? Have you failed in any duty which conscience tells you might have been performed? Brothers and sisters, there is time to fight another battle with the monster evil, and, by God's blessing, we will succeed! (Applause.) Oh, you have not far to seek for pearls. You may gather them in any number to gem your crown of glory, and make it bright when you cast it on the jasper floor of heaven before the throne of Him who came from earth to live and die for you. There are many of them about your homes, waiting for a word of sympathy such as they have never heard; waiting to respond to the Christian appeal the moment it shall be addressed to them. Go to them; go, as little Eva went to Topsy; and *lay your hands on them*, as the Saviour of the world did with them he healed. (Cheers.) Don't be afraid of the touch of your own flesh and blood. There may go forth life, and virtue, and a blessing. Go, and then at last you may lead up before the throne of God a little band of bright and radiant spirits; and you will be able to say, "Here am I, Lord, and the children thou hast given to me." Then shall you hear it: "Inasmuch as you have done it unto one of the least of these, you have done it unto me. Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord." There is another thought, my lord, if I may trespass a minute or two longer, and that is this: we ought to seek after these children, because unless we who feel the importance of the work, and feel committed to it by our sense of duty, do so, they are never likely to be sought after at all. They are too likely to be neglected and left. There may be nothing very lovely

or attractive, perhaps, in their personal appearance, or in the circumstances in which they are found. There may be that from which many Christians would shrink, and that may be adapted rather to repel than to invite and attract. But oh, my lord, I feel the truth of what has been already said to night as to good people who, almost in the spirit of the hermits of old, will shrink from evil rather than seek its removal. They go out into their mountain solitudes, and if it were to gaze upon God till they came down again, with their faces bright with glory, we would thank them for it; if it were to go and hold up their hands over the battle that is raging between Israel and Amalek down upon the plain below, or to look at and gather experience from the sight, we would bless them for it; if it were that they went up to gather new strength from God for diviner deeds of noble daring and mightier self-sacrifices, we would bless them for it; but when they go up only to spare their feelings, to escape from what may be an unpleasantness, then we say, brothers, rather let us be like the noble spirits who have gone in search of means of usefulness, and found their own noblest happiness in promoting that of others; let us rather be like that Lord and Saviour who stooped from the throne of glory to the manger, and from reigning over the angels to being cradled among the brute beasts, and being execrated upon the cross, that he might seek and save them that are lost; let us rather be like the shepherd of whom he tells us, who went out in the wilderness, found the wanderer—it may be all torn and bleeding—and bound it upon his shoulders, and with a smile like a little heaven in his countenance, came back rejoicing, rewarded for his pains; and that shall give you a joy that the noblest deed of fame could never impart, and that eternity will scarcely unfold. Then there is the thought, that has been referred to once and again to-night, of the glorious results that shall spring from these operations. Don't be discouraged, dear friends, because your material is somewhat rough and, it may be, homely and unpromising. It may be a rude, rough gem, but polished, as we have heard to-night, it may shine brightly in heaven. I need not remind you how some who have attained to the noblest distinction have risen from the deepest obscurity, just as you dig the brightest jewels out of the deepest mines; and as they are ever the brightest stars that flash out of the darkest sky. Is it not the glory of our religion that it goes down to the depths of all the woes and wants of our humanity? and that is the only power that does. It snatches the smouldering brand from under the heel of the passer-by; it lifts it up, kindles it afresh from heaven, makes it a torch of Divine truth to give light to the world; and then the hand of God, in his own time, seizes upon it and sets it a burning spirit to add to the brightness and glory of heaven. Our religion takes a man out of the horrible pit and the miry clay, then it sets his feet upon the rock, then it establishes his goings, and then it puts a new song into his mouth—"Praise to our God: many shall hear thereof and be glad." Oh! list to the voice, dear friends, that called you; and, sisters of charity in the noblest of all senses,—if one may apply that term to you,—followers of the women whose names shine the brightest on the scroll of Gospel history, that ministered to that Saviour who pointed to his preaching of the Gospel to the poor as the noblest attestation of the divinity of his character; you who, when stronger man has to retire from the difficulties, are seeking with all the power of modesty and gentleness to step into that sphere and win the respect that men could never gain; list to the voice of a sister-poet of yours, gone to her rest, whose words seem almost to drop from the sky, as she hands these ragged ones to a sister's care:—

"Take these children, young and small,
Spilt like blots about your city—
Quay and mansion, palace-wall:
Take, oh, take them to your pity!

"Ragged children with bare feet,
That the angels in white raiment

Know the names of to repeat
When they come to you for payment;—

"Ragged children, hungry-eyed,
Huddled up in all their coldness
On your door-step, side by side,
Till your footmen curse their boldness.

"Wicked children, with peak'd chins
And old foreheads, there are many—
With no pleasures except sins—
Gambling with a stolen penny.

"Healthy children, with their blue
English eyes, fresh from their Maker,
Fierce and ravenous, staring through
At the brown loaves of the baker.

"'All these mouths we cannot feed,
Cannot clothe these ragged bodies.'
Then if man's so hard indeed,
Let them learn at least what God is.

"Oh! my sisters, 'tis not much
We are asked for—not a blossom
From our children's nosegay, such
As we gave them from our bosom;—

"Not the milk left in their cup,
Not the lamp while they are sleeping,
Not the cloak that's hanging up
Whilst the coat's in daily keeping;—

"But a place in Ragged Schools,
Where the outcasts may to-morrow
Learn, by gentle words and rules,
Just the uses of their sorrow.

"Brothers and sisters, children all,
Blue-eyed, wailing through the city,
Our own babes cry in them all,
Take, oh, take them to your pity!"

They are my clients, for whom I plead to-night. This is my tribune from which I plead my cause; and remembering that God, the Father of us all, and the Judge of us all, is looking down upon us; and knowing that to this audience, under this President, it shall never, can never, must never be in vain, I beg with all my heart to propose the resolution I have just read. (Loud applause.)

Joseph Payne, Esq., seconded the resolution. He said, that in the short time which he should occupy, he would point out to the meeting a chain with five links, and erect before them a ladder with six rounds. The chain of five links would be found upon the platform, composed of representative men of different stations and denominations. First, there was the peerage link shown by the noble chairman and Lord Stratford de Redcliffe. Secondly, there was the Church of England link, which was shown by the Rev. Emilius Bailey. There was the Independent link, shown by that thoroughly independent man, the Rev. Newman Hall. Then there was the Baptist link, in their excellent friend Mr. Chown. And last, but not least, there was the Geneva link, in M. Merle D'Aubigné. Mr. Payne said he would now proceed to set up the Ragged School ladder, which had six rounds. The first round was right information, the second round was strong combination, the third was realization, the fourth was anticipation, the fifth round was acceleration, and the last was glorification. This ladder was like that which Jacob saw. Its foot was planted upon the plains of charity, and its top was hidden amidst the heights of heaven. When they stood upon the lowest round of the ladder they would see that four characteristics of the Ragged School movement were, that it was capacious, and sagacious, and veracious, and vivacious. The second step was strong combination, for that would follow when there was right information. The promoters of the movement combined in throwing and in rowing, in building and in gilding. They threw the Gospel net, and rowed the Gospel life-boat. It was their aim to erect the social edifice upon a safe and enduring foundation. The sisters of charity of whom Mr. Chown had spoken, were the polished corner-stones. It was left for the rich to do the gilding, although they would not be required to dirty their hands by assisting in the erection of the building. Having told several amusing anecdotes in further illustration of the various points, the learned speaker said that the duty of the meeting was—to be the same outside and in, not to be sparing of their "tin," to give their thanks for all their mercies, and allow him to conclude with a copy of verses. (Laughter.) The verses had reference to the honour which was about to be conferred upon

the noble Earl in the chair, by investing him with the Order of the garter, and made the speaker's 1,690th poetical tail-piece. They were as follows:—

The Queen has decorations given
To heroes bold and brave,
Who on the battle-field have striven
The land from foes to save.

But now she proffers them to those
Engaged in nobler strife,
Who marshal ragged ones in rows
To fight the fight of life.

And Shaftesbury soon, the good, the kind—
(Not gained by job or barter),
Around his active limb will bind
The Order of the garter.

And those who sneer, to mark that he
From none, though wicked, shrinketh,
Will trace the motto, "Evil be
To him that evil thinketh."

Thus will the dignities of earth,
At present grand and stately,
Adorning men of heavenly birth,
Increase their value greatly.

And in the Christian's heraldry
Where angels are recorders,
The garter shall henceforward be
The best of all the Orders.

Friends of the ragged children shout,
For heaven doth still defend you;
And never to the right about
Shall man or devil send you.

While Bradford lends its sturdy wight
In Chown to rouse and cheer us,
Geneva shows its purest light,
In Merle D'Aubigné near us.

And while this platform pleas'd I scan,
I'll say,—and speak no libels,—
Stratford de Redcliffe is the man
For Ragged Schools and Bibles.

Now stir within your heart and brain
Bright thoughts, and thus express them—
"We'll get, and give, and strive, and strain,
For the Ragged Schools—God bless them!"
—(Loud cheers.)

The resolution was put to the meeting, and carried unanimously.

The Rev. MERLE D'AUBIGNE, Pasteur of Geneva, said that he had been charged to move a very simple and very natural resolution: "That the noble President of this Society, who has taken the chair at every one of its anniversaries, and been the steady and unflinching advocate of Ragged Schools for so many years, is well entitled to the hearty thanks of this meeting, and of all friends of the poor. That such thanks be, therefore, given to the noble lord, accompanied with an earnest prayer that God will long spare his valuable life as a blessing to the good cause he has so much at heart." That was a resolution which was printed not only on the paper which he held in his hand, but, what was far better—in the heart of every one present at that meeting. It required no explanation, no proof, and no demonstration. It had been said with great truth, that the glory and the power of England were in the Word of God, and in its societies for the spread of the Gospel at home and abroad. Those societies were not only useful for England, but their influence extended to the Continent. It was from England that the Continent had derived its Bible Society, and now Ragged Schools were beginning to cross the Channel. At the great Conference of the Evangelical Alliance, held at Geneva last September, Dr. Guthrie, of Edinburgh, attended specially to set before the whole assembly the subject of Ragged Schools. He made a very fine speech, which was now printed, and calculated to do a great deal of good amongst those by whom it was read. When the inhabitants of Geneva heard the speech, they said: "Well, we cannot have Ragged Schools, for we have no ragged boys, and no ragged girls." That was true; very few, or perhaps no ragged children could be found there, and it would be very singular to have a Ragged School without them. At the suggestion of a lady connected with his (the reverend pasteur's) Sunday School, a student of a theological college went out into the high road, and there found five ragged lads, from fifteen to eighteen years of age; but they were not Genevese. They were Italians, or Sardinians, and Roman Catholics, and were employed as labourers by stone-masons. They began

to be taught, but they could not read. From that time, which was last October, the instruction was commenced, and they met every Tuesday and Friday evening. Soon the number increased to about sixty young men, of ages varying up to thirty years. They were all Roman Catholics, and strangers in the town, coming chiefly from Italy and Sardinia. They were taught to read in the Bible, and the school was still carried on. There was nothing so interesting to foreign Christians as the great religious movements that were carried on in England; and there was no man in England who was so much respected by the Protestants on the Continent as Lord Shaftesbury. While he (M. Merle D'Aubigné) was staying at the château of the late King of Prussia, a few years ago, the King said to him: "Do you know Lord Shaftesbury? Oh, if you know him, tell him to come to Berlin; I should like to see him." He (the speaker) was touched in his heart by the humility and love of that Christian King. (Applause.)

The Rev. Wm. Cuthbertson, of Australia, seconded the resolution. He said: that a fortnight ago he completed a voyage of 16,000 miles, and before its completion he was heartily tired, but he could say, in all sobriety, that he would willingly undertake a similar journey for the purpose of being present at such a noble meeting as was then assembled. (Cheers.) The Ragged Schools in England were doing much in training and instructing those under their charge, but they needed the help of the colonists to put the topstone on the work which was being so gloriously carried on in this country. By emigration to the colonies the youths would be removed from the evil associations of their early days, and have a fair start in life. The Christians in Australia would see that the boys were well cared for. Work was plentiful there, and artisans and servants received good wages. There was there an opportunity for the lads to rise in life, if they were honest and industrious, such as was not afforded in this country. Domestic servants, however inferior, might obtain 8s. a week, in addition to board and lodging. The boys could earn, as farm servants, from £30 to £50 a year, and rations. At the present time there were three Ragged Schools in Sydney. Captain Maclary, the chief of the Sydney police, told him (Mr. Cuthbertson) that since those schools had been established juvenile thieving had almost entirely ceased. In connection with these schools there were the auxiliaries of Teetotal Societies and Penny Banks.

The vote of thanks being carried unanimously,—

The Chairman said: My good friends, it would be difficult for me to express, in adequate terms, the thanks that I feel for the resolution that has been passed, for the manner in which it was propounded, and for the way in which it has been accepted. I can assure our friends in Australia that this country deeply appreciates their sympathy, that she cordially accepts their offer of co-operation, and that she entertains the deepest interest for their welfare, both for their sake and our own—for our own interest is deeply wrapped up in the interests of those great colonies. And as for Geneva, allow me to say, that no Englishman who is worth a straw can ever be indifferent to the welfare and honour of Geneva. When he recollects that in troublous times, and times of persecution, Geneva generously and fearlessly offered a refuge to English confessors, he will this night and for ever put up an earnest prayer that in that noble city, liberty of conscience, liberty of prophecy, freedom of speech, freedom of action, and the Gospel of Christ, may ever flourish and abound. (Loud applause.)

The doxology and benediction terminated the proceedings.

RAGGED SCHOOL UNION,

ESTABLISHED FOR THE SUPPORT OF

FREE SCHOOLS FOR THE DESTITUTE POOR.

OFFICE—1, EXETER HALL.

PRESIDENT.—THE RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF SHAFTESBURY.

TREASURER.—R. C. L. BEVAN, Esq., Lombard Street, E.C.

HON. SEC.—MR. W. LOCKE. HON. SOLICITOR.—E. JENNINGS, Esq.

SECRETARY.—MR. JOSEPH G. GENT, 1, Exeter Hall, W.C.

COLLECTOR.—MR. WILLIAM F. BLAKE, 11, Blenheim Villas, Abbey Road, St. John's Wood, N.W.

BANKERS.—MESSRS. BARCLAY, BEVAN, & CO., 54, Lombard Street.

The following Contributions have been received in aid of the Ragged School Union from the 20th of April, 1862, to the 20th of May, 1862.

General Fund.

	£	s.	d.
Allason and Hilman, the Misses	1	0	0
Anderson, C. W., Esq.	2	2	0
Anderson, Geo., Esq.	1	1	0
Anonymous	10	10	0
Anonymous (Stamps)	0	10	0
Arnet, Henry, Esq.	1	1	0
Arpthorpe, Mr.	0	5	0
Ashley, Hon. Wm.	1	1	0
Ashmore, Gen.	2	0	0
Austin, J., Esq.	1	1	0
Ballard, M., Esq.	2	0	0
Bastock, Mrs.	0	10	6
Beau, —, Esq.	1	0	0
Brandram, Messrs.	10	10	0
Bristowe, S. B., Esq.	1	1	0
Brock, C., Esq.	1	1	0
Brooke, J. L., Esq.	2	2	0
Carpmael, A., Esq.	2	2	0
Carpmael, W., Esq.	2	2	0
Carpmael, W., Esq., Jun.	2	2	0
C. H. R., Miss	0	10	0
Clayton, Mr.	1	1	0
Clissold, Mrs.	1	1	0
Cockerell, Mrs.	0	10	0
Cropper, Mrs.	0	10	0
C. W.	20	0	0
Duckett, Dow. Lady	2	0	0
Dumergue, F., Esq.	1	1	0
Dutbolt, Miss	2	11	0
Ellis, John, Esq.	1	1	0
Ellis, G. H., Esq.	5	5	0
Etches, Miss	0	10	0
Evans, Miss	8	0	0
Fitz-Gerald, J., Esq.	2	0	0
Fowler, R. N., Esq.	5	0	0
Franklin, Lady	1	1	0
Friends, from, per Miss A. Boobbyer	1	18	6
Gent, Mrs.	1	1	0
Goddard, Miss	1	0	0
Good, Miss E.	1	1	0
Guitton, Mrs.	2	2	0
Gulliford, Miss (box)	0	13	4
Hamilton, Rev. J.	1	0	0
Hartley, John, Esq.	1	1	0
Helyar, Miss	1	1	0
Herbert, Hon. Mrs.	4	4	0
Hill, Mrs.	1	1	0
Hope, R., Esq.	1	1	0
Hopley, Miss	3	7	8
Hume, Col. H.	2	0	0
Hunt, C., Esq.	1	1	0
Hunt, Miss	0	10	6
Hunt, Miss	1	1	0
H. R. B.	0	5	0
Jackson, Miss	1	0	0
Jeffreiss, J., Esq.	1	1	0
Jeffreiss, T., Esq.	1	1	0
Johnstone, F. G., Esq.	1	1	0
King, Bolton, Esq.	2	0	0
King, Miss L.	1	0	0
Kinsey, M., Esq.	1	1	0
Lanfear, A., Esq.	0	5	0
Lindsay, Hon. Mrs. H.	1	1	0
Llewellyn, Mrs.	1	1	0
Mackerstay, Mrs.	0	10	6
McLorg, Miss A. D.	1	0	0
Mann, H., Esq.	1	1	0
Manning, Miss	0	10	0
Manning, Miss M.	0	10	0
Manns, A.	0	1	0
Matthy, C., Esq.	1	1	0
Maude, Col. G. A.	1	0	0
Mendham, Mrs., Sen.	1	0	0
Mills, Miss E.	0	10	0
M. M.	0	5	0
Morant, Miss	1	1	0
Orton, J. S., Esq.	2	0	0
Ouston, W., Esq.	0	10	0
Payne, Miss H.	0	10	0
Penley, Col.	2	0	0
Pitman, Mr.	1	1	0
Polhill, R. C., Esq.	0	10	6
Potter, E., Esq.	10	0	0
Powell, Miss E.	0	10	0
Profits of Work-basket	1	6	0
R. A. M.	0	2	6
Reade, Mrs.	0	10	0
Rebbeck, Mrs.	1	0	0
Roberts, Mrs. M.	1	1	0
Robeson, Mr.	1	1	0
Robinson, Mrs.	0	5	0
Rothschild, Baron	20	0	0
Rusher, Mrs.	1	1	0
Sandham, Mrs.	2	0	0
Sargent, Mrs. George	1	0	0
Sapte, Mrs.	1	1	0
School Children, collected by	0	14	5
Selwyn, H. J., Esq.	1	1	0
Servant, A, coll. by	1	0	0
Shute, Mrs.	2	2	0
Silver, Miss	0	7	6
Simms, J., Esq.	1	1	0
Simms, Mrs.	1	0	0
Sizeland, Mrs.	1	1	0
Smith, Miss A., proceeds of work	1	1	0
Smith, Rev. E. G.	2	0	0
Skey, Dr.	2	0	0
Sterry, C., Esq.	1	1	0
Stuart, W., Esq.	2	2	0
Thatcher, Mr.	1	1	0
Thompson, Mrs.	0	10	6
Thorne, J. M., Esq.	2	2	0
Tildesley, Edward, Esq.	1	1	0
Torriano, Rev. J.	0	10	0
Trust	10	0	0
Twinch, Mr.	1	1	0
Wathen, Mrs.	1	1	0
Whitlaw, Mrs. F.	1	0	0
Wilson, Thomas., Esq.	5	0	0
Wilson, Miss A. E.	1	0	0
Wilson, —, Esq.	2	2	0
Wimbush, J., Esq.	2	0	0
Wood, Rev. A.	2	2	0
Wood, Mrs.	2	2	0
Z.	1	1	0

Special Fund.

Belvedere Crescent.

	£	s.	d.
Allason and Hilman, Misses	1	0	0

Cripples' Home.

	£	s.	d.
Allason and Hilman, Misses	1	0	0
Mexborough, Dowager Countess	5	0	0

Field Lane.

	£	s.	d.
Allason and Hilman, Misses	2	0	0

George Yard.

	£	s.	d.
Sale of Work, per Miss A. Boobbyer	4	15	

Rag Brigade.

	£	s.	d.
Lorraine, Miss	1	1	0
Vectis	0	10	0
Wheeler, Hy., Esq.	5	0	0

Ragged Church and Chapel Union.

	£	s.	d.
Evans, Miss	2	0	0

Red Shoe Black.

	£	s.	d.
Allason and Hilman, Misses	0	10	0

Southwark School.

	£	s.	d.
Chilver, T. F., Esq.	2	0	0

Webber Row.

	£	s.	d.
Fellowes, Mrs.	1	0	0

Westworth Street.

	£	s.	d.
C. H. P. A.	0	5	0

FURNISH YOUR HOUSE AT DEANE'S LONDON BRIDGE

DEANE'S CELEBRATED TABLE CUTLERY.

	Table Knives.	Dessert Knives.	Carvers.
Finest Ivory Handles	33s.	28s.	11s.
Medium „	23s.	18s.	7s. 6d.
Good „	16s.	12s.	5s. 6d.

DEANE'S ELECTRO-PLATED SPOONS AND FORKS.

	Table.	Dessert.	Tea.
Spoons, Best Plating	40s.	30s.	18s.
Forks „	38s.	29s.	—
Spoons, 2nd Quality	33s.	24s.	14s. 6d.
Forks „	31s.	23s.	—

DEANE'S Electro-Plated Tea and Coffee Sets, Liqueur Stands, Cruets, Cake Baskets, &c.

DEANE'S Dish Covers and Britannia Metal Goods.
Prices of Tin Dish Covers in Sets of Six and Seven:—
18s., 30s., 40s., 63s., 78s.

DEANE'S Papier-maché Tea Trays, in Sets, from 21s. New and Elegant Patterns constantly introduced.

DEANE'S Bronzed, Copper, and Brass Goods.

DEANE'S Bronzed Tea Urns, 50s., 63s., 84s.

DEANE'S Moderator Lamps, from 7s. to £6 6s.

DEANE'S Drawing Room Stoves, Ranges, &c.

DEANE'S Fenders and Fireirons.

DEANE'S Iron Bedsteads, with Bedding. Priced Pamphlet, with Drawings, post free.

DEANE'S Domestic Baths. *See* Illustrated Priced Pamphlet.

DEANE'S Tin, Japan, and Iron Goods.

DEANE'S Cornices and Cornice Poles.

DEANE'S Horticultural Tools.

DEANE'S Chandeliers and Gas Fittings.

A PRICED FURNISHING LIST SENT POST FREE.

DEANE & CO., LONDON BRIDGE.

ESTABLISHED A.D. 1700.

Printed by Robert Kingston Burt, of No. 40, Highbury New Park, in the County of Middlesex, at his Office, Holborn Hill, in the City of London; and published by Kent & Co., 21, Paternoster Row, in the City of London.—MONDAY, JUNE 2nd, 1862.